



# Guidelines for an Eagle Scout Service Project

## *Information for Project Beneficiaries*

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### **Thank You**

Thank you for the opportunity you are making available to an Eagle Scout candidate. Support from community organizations is important to Scouting— just as Scouting’s contributions are important to the community.

### **The Eagle Scout Rank and the Service Project**

Service to others is a key part of the Scout Oath: “... to help other people at all times.” Each year tens of thousands of young men strive to achieve the coveted Eagle Scout rank by applying character, citizenship, and Scouting values in their daily lives. One of the rank requirements is to *plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project helpful to any religious institution, school, or community*. Through this requirement, Scouts apply what they have learned and gain valuable project management and leadership experience.

### **Typical Projects**

There are thousands of possible Eagle Scout projects. Some involve building things, and others do not. A few examples: constructing park picnic tables or benches, upgrading hiking trails, planting trees, making and installing birdhouses, conducting well-planned blood drives, conducting bicycle safety rodeos and so forth. Other than the general limitations noted below, there are no specific requirements for project scope or for how many hours are worked. In defining a project, remember it must be something a group with perhaps limited skills can accomplish under the leadership of your Eagle Scout candidate. For the Scout to fulfill the requirement, *he* must be the one to lead the project. It is important you work with him and not with his parents or leaders.

### **Project Restrictions and Limitations**

- Fundraising is permitted only for facilitating a project. Efforts that primarily collect money, even for worthy charities, are not permitted.
- Routine service or maintenance projects are not generally appropriate Eagle Projects
- The Scout is not responsible for any maintenance of a project once it is completed.

### **Approving the Project Proposal and Project Scheduling**

Once a potential project is identified, you must approve your Scout’s proposal. Please be sure you have discussed and considered all aspects of the project with him and that both of you have a clear understanding of your expectations and limitations. Keep in mind at this stage his proposal is merely an overview—not a final, comprehensive plan.

Some projects may take only a few weeks or months to plan and carry out, while others may take much longer. The proposal must have several approvals, besides yours, before final planning occurs, and work begins.

Regular communication between you and the Scout is a critical component of the planning process to ensure completion of the work well before the Scout’s 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### **Approving Final Plans**

After his proposal is approved by the local BSA council, your Scout must develop a detailed plan for implementing the project. BSA includes a “Final Plan” form in your *Scout’s Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook*, and we recommend that

you ask see it. If in your plan review you have any concerns that the project may run into trouble or not produce the results you want, do not hesitate to require plan revisions before work begins.

### **Permits, Permissions, and Authorizations**

- If the project requires building permits, etc., your Scout needs to know about them for his planning. However, your organization must be responsible for obtaining all necessary permits.
- Your organization must sign any contracts.
- If digging is involved, it is your responsibility to locate, mark, and protect underground utilities as necessary.
- If you need approval from a committee, your organization's management, or a parent organization, etc., be sure to allow additional time and let the Scout know if he is to assist with this.

### **Funding the Project**

Eagle Scout service projects often require fundraising. Donations of any money, materials, or services must be preapproved by the BSA unless provided by your organization; by the Scout, his parents and relatives; by his troop or its chartered organization. The Scout must make it clear to donors that the money is being raised on the project beneficiary's behalf, and that you as the beneficiary will retain any leftover funds. If receipts are needed by donors, your organization must provide them.

### **Supervision**

To meet the requirement to "give leadership to others," your Scout must be given every opportunity to succeed independently without direct supervision. The Scout's troop will provide adults to assist, and your organization should also have someone available. The Scout, however, must provide the leadership necessary for project completion without adult interference.

### **Safety**

Through the proposal and planning process, the Scout will identify potential hazards and outline strategies to prevent as well as handle injuries or emergencies. Scouts as minors, however, cannot be held responsible for safety. Adults must accept this responsibility. Property owners, for example, are responsible for issues and hazards related to their property or employees and any other individuals or circumstances they would normally be responsible for controlling. If during project execution you have any concerns about health and safety, please share them with the Scout and his leaders so action may be taken. If necessary, you may stop work on the project until concerns are resolved.

### **Project Completion and Approval**

After the project has been completed, your Scout will ask for your signature on his project report indicating your approval of the project. The report will be used in the final review of his qualifications for the Eagle Scout rank. If the Scout has met your reasonable expectations, you should approve the project; if he has not, you should ask for corrections. This is not the time, however, to request changes or additions beyond what was originally agreed.

The Eagle Scout service project is an accomplishment a Scout will always remember. Your reward will be a project that benefits your organization and, more important, knowing that you have contributed to a young man's growth.